7. An Overseas Workers Resource Centre (OWRC) in important labour receiving countries to serve as a one-stop service outlet for emigrant workers;

8. The Indian Missions operate shelters for emigrants in distress including run-away women household service workers;

9. Engaging lawyers to defend the Indian emigrant workers in court cases of consequence;

10. A programme for skill upgradation of potential emigrants. The programme is being implemented in partnership with State Governments and Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises. Industry Organisations and NGOs will also be involved in its implementation;

11. A pre-departure orientation programme for emigrants to equip them with the knowledge of laws, language and culture of the host countries before their departure.

(c) While a minimum wage has been prescribed for women household service workers, the Government has not prescribed a minimum wage for workers in other sectors.

Legal help to Indian women

1483. SHRI RAVULACHANDRASEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is in the process of identifying non-Governmental organizations and legal teams to provide help to Indian women facing problems outside the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the assistance Government is giving to such women who are facing difficulties abroad?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government, through its Diplomatic Missions and Consular Posts abroad, has identified Indian Women's Organizations/Indian Community Associations/NGOs under a "Scheme for giving legal/financial assistance to women deserted by their overseas Indian spouses."

(b) The list of Indian Women's Organizations/Indian Community Associations/NGOs empanelled with the Indian Diplomatic Missions/Posts abroad is given in Statement I *(See* below).

(c) Financial assistance limited to US $ 1,000/- per case is provided through Indian Missions/Posts abroad to the Indian Women's Organizations/Indian Community Associations/ NGOs for providing legal aid to such women. Details ot the scheme are given in the Statement [refer to the statement appended to Unstarred Question 1479(d)].

Statement

List of Indian Women's Organizations/Indian Community Associations/NGOs Empanelled with the Indian Missions/Posts abroad to Provide legal/Financial Assistance to Indian Women deserted by their overseas spouses

SI. No.	Indian Mission	Indian Women's Association/NGOs empanelled with the Indian Missions
1.	Embassy of India, Washington DC.USA	ASHA (Asian Women's Self-help Association), Post Box 2084, Rockville, MD 20847-2084
2.	Consulate General of India, SanFrancisco, USA	(i) MAIRI, 234, East Gish Road, Suite 200, San Jose, CA 95112 (ii) NARIKA Post Box No. 14014, Berkeley, CA 94714 (iii) SevA Legal Aid 37053 Cherry Street # 207 Newark, CA 94560
3.	Consulate General of India, New York, USA	(i) SAKHI, New York (ii) AWAKE (Asian Women's Alliance for Kinship and Equality) (iii) MANAVI, New Jersey (iv) SEWAA (SERVICE AND EDUCATION FOR WOMEN AGAINST ABUSE) Philadelphia (v) INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF BUFFALO (vi) Asian Women's Safety Net
4.	Consulate General of India Chicago, USA	APNA GHAR INC (OUR HOME), Chicago
5.	Embassy of India, Qatar	Indian Community Benevolent Fund (ICBF), Doha, Qatar
6.	High Commission of India, Canberra, Australia	The Indian Welfare & Resources Centre (IWRC), the Welfare wing of Federation of Indian Association of Victoria, Melbourne
7.	High Commission of India, Ottawa, Canada	(i) Indian Canada Association 1301 Prestone Drive, Ottawa, ON K1E, 2Z2 (ii) Ottawa Community Immigrant Services Organization, 959 Wellington Street West, Ottawa, ONK1Y2X5 (iii) National Association of Canadians of Indian Origin, 24 Saint-Paul East, Suite 201. Montreal, QC H2Y 1G3

		(iv) AWIC Community & Social Services 3030 Don Mills Road, Peanut Plaza, North York, ON M2J 3C1
8.	High Commission of India, London, UK	None empanelled so far
9.	Indian Embassy, Abu Dhabi	None empanelled so far
10.	Indian Embassy, Bahrain	Migrant Workers Protection Society (MWPS) (being considered for empanelment)
11.	Indian Embassy; Kuwait	None empanelled so far
12.	High Commission of India, New Zealand	Shakti Community Council INC, Auckland

-Scheme for Indians abroad

1484. SHRI RAVULACHANDRASEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry had readied a scheme to respond to distress calls from Indians working abroad;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) in what manner people would get benefited from such schemes especially who have gone abroad from the Telangana Regions?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs has set up an Overseas Workers Resource Centre (OWRC) forrendering assistance to Indian workers abroad and those who are desirous of going abroad for employment. The objectives of the Centre are:

- Information dissemination on matters relating to emigration.
- Registering, responding to and monitoring complaints received from emigrant workers.
- Grievance redressal and follow up with stakeholders.

(c) The OWRC functions with a toll free number 1800 11 3090 accessible from anywhere in India for rendering help to the emigrant workers. At present, the Helpline is functioning in seven languages, *viz* Hindi, English, Tamil, Malayalam, Punjabi, Kannada and Telugu from 10.00 am to 10.00 pm, seven days a week. The Helpline can be accessed by all needy persons.

Second ARC recommendation for more rights to Panchayats

tl485. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
DR. MURLf MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report of the second

t Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.